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not Euler's works to be classed amongst the greatest of all ages, not only on the subject of pure mathematics, but also for their manifold technical applications!

We are hopeful that our appeal will meet with that interest on the part of all mathematicians which a complete edition of Euler's works may justly claim. So much preparatory work has already been done that it needs now but a comparatively slight effort from individuals and from scientific associations to insure the success of our great plan, the publication of Euler's works!

This appeal is signed by the presidents of the central committee and the Euler committee of the Swiss Society of Natural Sciences. Subscriptions may be sent to Professor F. Rudio, Dolderstrasse 111, Zurich V., Switzerland.

G. A. Miller

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO VISIT THE MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

To the Board of Overseers of Harvard College: The committee wish to report that they visited the museum on April 29, and were received by Mr. Agassiz, the director, and by Mr. Henshaw, the curator, under whose auspices an inspection of the collections of the museum was made.

A walk through the museum can not fail to impress the observer with the careful forethought for great simplicity and security of construction, and the thoroughly scientific arrangement and handling of the vast collections therein contained. The architectural arrangement of the various departments is of the simplest character, and one can not but be impressed with the high degree of scientific accuracy displayed everywhere. The material on exhibition forms but a small part of the whole collection—more than two thirds of the specimens being stored for the purpose of scientific study. Among these are many great special collections—for instance, those of the Brazilian Expedition of Professor Louis Agassiz, and those of the numerous dredging expeditions of Mr. Alexander Agassiz, which have been the subject of classic memoirs.

Among the recent acquisitions of the museum which have already been described in previous reports, is the large model of the Bora-Bora coral reefs, which has been carefully prepared under the direction of Mr. Agassiz, and is now cased in the museum. It serves in its own way to commemorate the extensive and fruitful investigations into coral reef formation which he has made during recent years.

There are at present more than 45,000 volumes in the library, which, owing to its scientific value, has become one of Harvard's great possessions. It is eagerly sought out and consulted by students and masters in several departments of science, and not from Harvard alone, but from the whole United States and Canada. This great growth has made it necessary to place the books in stacks, and owing to this somewhat compact arrangement, the facilities for consulting the books are not so convenient as they would be if provision could be made for a more perfect system of artificial illumination.

With the growth of the museum, the need of a number of expert assistants in the preparation and mounting of specimens has been felt.

The first need to which we call attention would not involve great increase in the expenditures, but the second is a large item. As the resources of the museum and the director's private generosity are already taxed to the utmost, it rests with the university itself, or with the public, rather than with the museum, to bear this additional burden. Your committee feel strongly that the university should assume it.

It is appropriate on this occasion to call attention to the fact that this year marks the semi-centennial of the establishment of the Museum of Comparative Zoology. On April 2, 1859, the legislature of Massachusetts voted that the sum of $100,000 should be granted to the Museum of Comparative Zoology. In June, 1859, articles of agreement were made and executed between the trustees of the museum and the president and fellows of Harvard College. A piece of land about five acres in extent was deeded by the corporation to the museum, for the purpose of erecting a

fireproof building. The laying of the corner-stone took place with appropriate ceremonies on June 14, 1859. The formal establishment of the museum took place in October of the same year, by the presentation of Professor Agassiz's collections to the trustees.

The foundation was placed at first in the hands of a body of trustees appointed by the state, and it was not until 1875 that the museum was turned over and placed permanently in charge of the corporation of the university.

A small and lonely looking brick block which was erected at this time, with its four rooms to the floor, has grown nearly continuously around three sides of the great square originally laid out for it. A second section of the museum was soon added to the first, in 1871–2, and further additions were made in 1877, and again in 1880–2, and it was not until 1888–9 and 1901–2 that the last portions of the museum were finally added. The departments of botany and mineralogy and geology which have been added from time to time, and the Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology—the building of which was begun in 1876—form portions of the present structure now known as the university museum, of which the Museum for Comparative Zoology forms the major part.

The university museum contains thirty-two rooms in its ground plan, and is by far the largest building of the university. Nor is it an empty shell—it barely serves to house its treasures and the students thereof.

A glance at the plans of this building shows what grand results have been accomplished in a half-century's work, and what has followed from the inspiration of a great teacher. Intellectually, the institution has grown from the daring experiment of a great enthusiast to an important position among the leaders of the world's museums and laboratories. It is doubtful if any department of the university has brought home to it from the old world more fame, or if any department has done more enduring work for time to come.

It is well to recall these historical memoirs on this occasion, and it must never be forgotten that such progress and development would have been impossible without the life-time devotion of two very remarkable men—father and son. One is gone; in his life and death he has had great praise. He deserved it, and the university should ever commemorate him. One is with us; we should not wait until he is gone to give praise to him. He is a major benefactor to the university, and a great figure in her history. To him the university owes not only a lavish fortune spent in her service, but much more than this—the lifework of a great administrator, and a great scientific man.

Your committee, therefore, are unanimously of the opinion that this fiftieth anniversary of the Museum of Comparative Zoology should be fittingly celebrated by the whole university, and, further, that no celebration could be so fitting as one which would evince the university's admiration of the scholar and the man —Alexander Agassiz. It strongly recommends, therefore, to your board timely and positive steps in this direction, and tenders its services if desired for more concrete suggestions or consultation.

J. COLLINS WARREN,
Chairman

May 12, 1909

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

COLGATE UNIVERSITY has conferred its doctorate of laws on Dr. E. F. Nichols, president-elect of Dartmouth College. Dr. Nichols was professor of physics at Colgate University from 1892 to 1898.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE has conferred its doctorate of laws on Professor H. B. Fine, professor of mathematics at Princeton University.

THE degree of LL.D. has been conferred by the University of North Carolina on Dr. R. H. Whitehead, the new dean of the medical department of the University of Virginia.

ON the occasion of the Health Congress to be held at Leeds in July the honorary degree of LL.D. will be conferred by the university on the president of the congress, Col. T. W. Harding, and the honorary degree of D.Sc. on Sir